

Abstract

The title of our thesis is “**Rural Development and Micro Level Planning: A Case Study on Agricultural Production Planning in a Rural Economy of Cooch Behar**”.

The object of this research enterprise is to make a specialised study on agricultural production of the rural economy of *Baneswar*, of Cooch Behar Block-II in Cooch Behar district. The wider aim of this write up is to divulge the various causes of the loss of tempo that has been occurring in respect of agricultural development in this area even after the second call for green revolution. We know very well that the agricultural development is a rhythm depends on the synchronisation of different factor and does not depend solely on the sector of agriculture itself. Keeping this view in mind a number of aspects covering all the related sphere have been covered by this investigation.

At the end, the study will enable us to chalk out a development plan as well as an institutional framework for an expanding productive system for this grass-root area economy and for other alike areas. At the same time the analysis of agricultural production carried out so far in local level rural economies of West Bengal by several investigators under the supervision of Prof. P.C. Sarkar, already developed in detail, will be carried still further to investigate in detail some of the important points about which there is great deal of obscurity in the international academic circles. All these have been clearly described in our introduction chapter 1.

In our 2nd chapter we have given an outline of the socio- economic characteristics that exist in that rural economy. These socio- economic characteristics is also appeared as an important instrument to maintain a sustainable level of growth within the area economy. This stock-taking gets its importance not only to see the existing endowments but also to make it clear about the need of the area economy in the coming decades to usher in the sustainable development what we plead for the area economy in the previous chapter. Another point to be noted here is that this stock-taking also provides us the information about the existing use of the various endowments with the existing rules of the game in the one hand and also to find out the unexplored resources that are being left in the existing process of planning conceived at the top.

In the 3rd chapter we have tried to examine, in details, the existing state of housing, sanitation and healthcare facilities that have been enjoyed by the rural people within the existing socio-economic framework of our sample economy to formulate a plan for housing, sanitation and healthcare at the grass- root level of our type

The existing demographic characteristics of labour in our grass-root area economy have been analysed in the 4th chapter which is important not only for planning but also for the achievement of the production potentiality of any area economy in the one hand and also for achieving the economic-demographic equilibrium. For giving the short and long run planning for the area economy we have explained the birth and death rates, GFR, TFR, GRR and NRR, future projection of the sample population and other demographic indicators.

In our 5th chapter we have given a detail account of input use and output raised in our sample economy in a very simple manner. In this chapter we have used the concepts like output-input ratio, home labour co-efficient, various farm incomes and yield rates, farm-size productivity, etc. to measure input use efficiency in a very crude aggregate manner.

In the 6th chapter we have used both the Linear and Log- linear regression functions to clarify the input responses on output of total as well as individual crops. Both the attempts are in aggregative in nature and they did not provide any information about the farm efficiency at individual level.

To measure farm efficiency at individual level by using the Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) Technique is the task of the 7th chapter. Using DEA Technique, here we have tried to find out the relatively efficient and inefficient farms particularly in case of Aman paddy, Potato and Boro paddy production, the mostly produced crops in our sample economy, within the existing setup. We have also explained the causes of inefficiency of the farms and the ways to make the farms efficient.

The main task of the 8th chapter is to divulge the ground reality of the extent of use of land and labour in this grass-root rural area economy. We have tried to do this by finding out of different occupational distributions of the employable adults of the area, by good

and bad employment and especially through our intensity index measures. Similarly, the analysis of land use index is also an important part of this chapter.

Our 9th chapter covers the important findings and recommendations.